

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SP-02

SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6649

INFO USERDA WASHDC

USERDA GERMANTOWN MD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA

SUBJECT: MITI REACTION TO "NUCLEAR POWER ISSUES AND CHOICES"

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY TRANSLATION OF NEWS ARTICLE
REPORTING MITI REACTION TO MITRE CORP. REPORT GIVEN TO
PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA BY PRESIDENT CARTER:

2. HEADLINE: MITI OFFICIALS SHARPLY CRITICIZE
AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC GROUP'S NUCLEAR ENERGY REPORT.

3. TEXT: MITI OFFICIALS HAVE FINISHED TRANSLATING
THE REPORT ENTITLED "NUCLEAR POWER ISSUES AND CHOICES",
A COPY OF WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER PRESENTED TO PRIME
MINISTER FUKUDA. THE MITI OFFICIALS ARE UNDER THE
IMPRESSION THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT ARE TOO
POOR AND ILLOGICAL TO REQUIRE MUCH COMMENT. THEY
STARTED TRANSLATING THE REPORT AS SOON AS FUKUDA RETURNED,
SINCE RANKING U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE AMONG THE
AUTHORS OF THE REPORT AND SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER HAD
BEEN SAYING THAT HE WOULD BASE HIS NEW POLICY ON THE
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REPORT. THE MITI OFFICIALS LOOKED FOR A CLUE TO
CARTER'S NEW POLICY FROM THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT.
WHAT THEY FOUND FROM THE 418-PAGE REPORT WAS NOTHING
MORE THAN AN INCONVINCING PROPOSAL AGAINST NUCLEAR
FUEL REPROCESSING, AND EVIDENCE OF A NUCLEAR PROLIFERA-
TION ALLERGY. A MITI OFFICIAL SAYS, "IT GIVES US THE
SHUDDERS TO IMAGINE THAT A NEW NUCLEAR POLICY WILL BE

HAMMERED OUT IN SUCH UNSCIENTIFIC GROUNDS."

THE REPORT SAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE IMPACT OF A DELAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WOULD NOT BE GREAT IN THE PRESENT CENTURY AND WOULD REMAIN SLIGHT INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. THE MITI OFFICIALS DOUBT THE SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS FOR SUCH AN ARGUMENT, AND POINT OUT THAT THE STATISTICAL BACK-UP IS AMBIGUOUS. THE REPORT ALSO SAYS THAT THE U.S. DOMESTIC URANIUM ORE RESERVES ARE ENOUGH TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION WITHIN THIS CENTURY. ON THIS POINT, MITI OFFICIALS SAY, "ONLY THE NATURAL RESOURCES KINGDOMS SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES CAN SAY SO. WE CANNOT ALLOW SUCH DOGMATIC LOGIC TO BE APPLIED TO THE ENERGY POLICY OF JAPAN, WHICH IS POOR IN NATURAL RESOURCES."

THIS REPORT SEEMS TO BE BECOMING A BASIS FOR U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY. A SHORT TIME AGO, ERDA RELEASED A REPORT STRESSING THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING. WITH THE DESPERATE DESIRE TO START OPERATION OF THE (TOKAI) REPROCESSING PLANT, MITI IS SAYING, "ERDA'S REPORT IS MUCH MORE SCIENTIFIC." END TEXT.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE INFORMATION BECAME AVAILABLE TO US JUST BEFORE WEEKEND AND WE HAVE NOT YET VERIFIED IT. SUGGEST THAT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON WHO WILL BE MEETING WITH JAPANESE NUCLEAR DELEGATION RAISE SUBJECT OF MITRE REPORT AND REACTION TO IT. IT OCCURS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO US THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ENTIRE REPORT HAS BEEN TRANSLATED IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. EVEN IF IT HAS, THERE IS LIKELIHOOD THAT TRANSLATION IS NOT COMPLETELY ACCURATE. END COMMENT.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO04765
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770116-0353
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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